

having the lores, base of lower mandible, lower portion of the ear-coverts, and the chin and throat, the same bright yellow as the rest of the under parts; the feathers of the crown are pale shafted, which is not the case in *poliogenys*; the tail is pale dusky, the two outer feathers only being white on the apical portion of the inner web, the basal portion of which is dusky; the outer web in both is pale dusky green; the other ten are fringed with greenish on the outer web. The wing in *affinis* is a quarter of an inch longer, but has the same markings; the tarsus is also longer by a tenth of an inch. Other characters agree in both species. The bill in this and *poliogenys* is broader than in *A. xanthoschistos*, Hodgson.

Hab. Nepal. (No. 920*. Hodgson's Catal.)

5. ABRORNIS ALBOGULARIS, Hodgson.

Forehead, lores, over and under the eyes to nape, and ear-coverts brightish ferruginous, the crown being dusky ferruginous, passing to yellowish olive-green on the back and shoulders; the rump yellowish; wings black, margined with the colour of the back; tail pale dusky greenish, edged exteriorly throughout with yellowish-green; throat and base of lower mandible white, the feathers black at base; breast bright yellow; abdomen white, vent yellowish; bill horny, paler beneath; feet pale horny; the rictorial bristles black, strong, nearly as long as the bill.

Length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing, $1\frac{3}{4}$; the first quill $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch shorter than the second; third $\frac{7}{10}$ ths longer than the first; fourth, fifth and sixth nearly equal, the fifth being the longest; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; bill to frontal plumes, $\frac{3}{12}$; to gape, $\frac{5}{12}$; tarsus, $\frac{6}{10}$; middle toe and claw, $\frac{5}{12}$; hind ditto, $\frac{3}{8}$; tarsus and hind claw strong.

Hab. Nepal. (No. 936. Hodgson's Catal.)

ON THE GENUS MODIOLARCA.

BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., P.B.S., V.P.Z.S. ETC.

In the Synopsis of the British Museum for 1840, pp. 144, 155, I established a family of bivalve shells under the name of *Crenellidæ*, for the genera *Crenella* and *Modiolarca*, taking the character of the family from the animal of *Modiola trapezina*, the type of the genus *Modiolarca*, the only one that had then come under my examination. The following were the characters given:—

“The family of *Crenellidæ* chiefly differs from the former (*Mytilidæ*) in the mantle lobes being united together so as to leave only two posterior holes for the entrance and exit of the water, and a slit for the foot and beard. The hinge-margin is denticulated at each end, and the umbo is nearly central.”

Shortly after, Mr. Alder described the animal of the British *Crenella undulata*, and found that the mantle was nearly as much open as that of the *Modiola*, and complained of the inaccuracy of the description; the fact being, that the two genera had very different animals, and that *Crenella* had been wrongly referred to the group, and taken as the patronymic of it.

I have lately had an opportunity of verifying my description of the animal of *Modiolarca*, and find that it exactly agrees with the above character, and that it has a very peculiar-formed foot, most resembling that found in some *Arcidæ*, which caused me to call the genus *Modiolarca**

The following is a more particular description of the animal of the genus, which must be considered as the type of a peculiar family, called

MODIOLARCAÆ.

Crenellidæ, Gray, 1840.

Genus MODIOLARCA, Gray, 1840.

Mantle lobes united. Siphonal apertures two, distinct; anal moderate; branchial very large, inferior, simple edged; pedal aperture small, basal, subanterior. Gills four, thick, dependent, subtrigonal, truncated in front, narrow, produced and united together behind. Lips four, moderate. Palpi obsolete. Foot oblong, base truncated, lower end lanceolate, acute in front, with a subposterior, central cavity for the byssus.

Shell equivale, oblong, thin; umbo subanterior. Hinge-teeth none, or rudimentary. Cartilage linear, external. Periostraca polished, hard.

The animal lives attached to floating sea-weed.

Modiolarca trapezina† = *Modiola trapezina*, Lamk. Hist. A. s. V. n. 17. ed. 2. vii. 24; Delessert, Icon. t. 13. fig. 7; Hanley, Cat. Recent Shells, 237.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MONSTROSITY OF ANTIRRHINUM MAJUS.

IN a garden at Brixton I observed many spikes of the common Snapdragon, *Antirrhinum majus*, with larger and much brighter-coloured flowers than the rest. The flowers were divided to the base into five separate lobes, the upper lip of the common form of the flower being formed of two, the lower lip of three; the upper lobes were inequilateral, the upper side very straight, and the outer one curved with an enlarged end somewhat like the wing of a papilionaceous flower, and they were one-coloured and slightly twisted; the three lower lobes were equilateral, lanceolate, variously con-

* Two genera have been made out of this word. Dr. Beck when in this country made a note that I had called the genus *Modiolarca*; but he appeared to have read it *Modiolaria*, and that name has been used for it. The latter name is now chiefly used for the more oblong *Crenella*.

† Since the above was read, I find that M. Valenciennes has considered this shell as the type of a new genus, *Phascolicama* (see Gay's Chili, 1854); and Mr. Gould has, more lately, formed a genus for it, under the name of *Gaimarda*.—J. E. GRAY.